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THE REVEILLE

DEVOTED TO THE BANJO MANDOLIN & GUITAR

VOL. V Single Copies, 10 Cents. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., MAY-JUNE, 1902. No. 3

Miss Charlotte Graeber.

The first presentation in this city of the character of Becky Sharp in 'Vanity Fair," from the reader's standpoint, was given Friday evening, April 25th, at Sherman-Clay Hall, by the clever young woman, Charlotte Graeber. Miss Graeber has a pleasing manner and a well modulated voice, which wins and holds her audience. Her delineation of Becky Sharp has caused much comment in dramatic circles; nevertheless, Miss Graeber's interpretation of the character was a true and telling one. She especially showed her power in the tragic scenes.

"Pickwick Papers" was received with more enthusiasm than was even accorded it on her former Dickens' evening. On the whole, the reading was a highly artistic and intellectual one.

PROGRAM.

Thirty Minutes with "Vanity Fair."
Character, Becky Sharp.

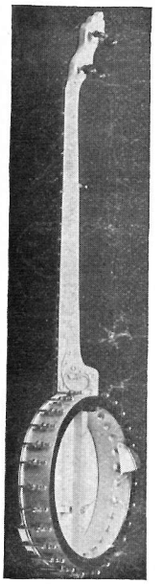
Governess Married Triumph
Ambition Mimicry Tragedy
Letters Wit Humor Finale

Thirty minutes with 'Pickwick Papers (by request)

(*a*) The Proposal
(*b*) Breach of Promise Case

Characters: Mr. Pickwick, Mrs. Bardell, Sergeant Buzfuz, Sam Weller, etc.

Incidentally we may mention that Miss Graeber is a very fine mandolinist, having studied under Prof. Graeber for quite a while. She also was a member of the famous Graeber Mandolin Club, so we follow her career with the keenest interest.



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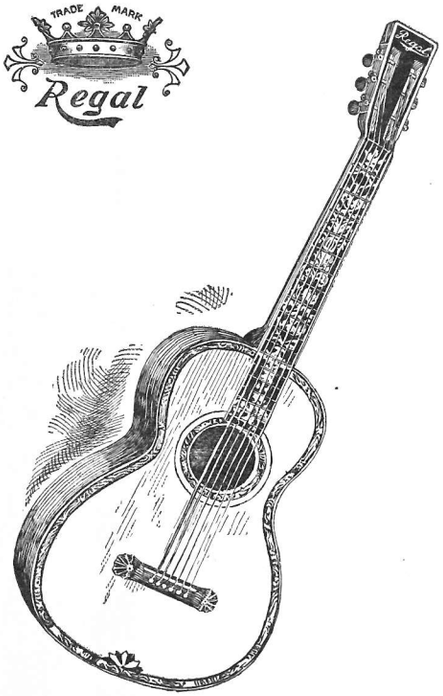

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THE REVEILLE
DEVOTED TO THE BANJO MANDOLIN & GUITAR

A Journal published bi-monthly in the interest of the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar by

PROF. CHAS. F. GRAEBER, Editor & Publisher

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ADVERTISING RATES

$1.00 per inch, each insertion. Special rates for space over five inches and on long term contracts. Teachers' cards, two lines, $1.00 per year.

We shall be pleased to chronicle matters of interest pertaining to the Banjo Mandolin and Guitar, and items of musical intelligence will be welcomed from every source, and we will esteem it an especial favor if we receive copies of local papers containing reports of concerts, entertainments, etc., where the above instruments are represented.

MAY 1902

Editorial.

Mr. Samuel Siegel, the mandolinist, who created such a furor through the country on his second annual concert tour, is getting ready to make another trip next year. Following is a letter we received recently from Mr. Siegel, which will explain itself and which should interest all wide-awake teachers in this section:

NEW YORK, May 13, 1902.

Mr. Chas. Graeber, No. 634 Post street, San Francisco, Cal.—Friend Graeber: I beg to inform you that I have arranged with the Blanchard-Venter Musical and Lyceum Bureau of Los Angeles, Cal., for the management of my next Western tour, which embraces your city. They will correspond with you in regard to same, and I trust that you can arrange to personally accept their proposition or interest others.

I take pleasure in stating that I have engaged Mr. H. Meyer, the celebrated pianist and entertainer. Mr. Meyer does a very original and musical monologue seated at the piano, imitating the various voices in grand opera, and other interesting and humorous effects. He is capable of giving an entire evening himself, therefore with his assistance I shall be able to present a complete program, thus saving the local managers the trouble of securing assisting talent. Heretofore I have not been able to do justice to myself, owing to the fact that I was obliged to rehearse with new accompanists daily, and my best numbers were necessarily omitted on this account, as it is impossible for an artist to get together with an accompanist with one rehearsal.

Owing to the fact that the Blanchard-Venter Bureau are paying me quite a large salary, they are necessarily obliged to ask $100 and over for my concerts.

If this guarantee should be more than you care to arrange for, they may arrange for a little less guarantee and a percentage basis.

I sincerely hope that you will manage to arrange for the appearance of Mr. Meyer and myself next year.

Thanking you for your past efforts, and hoping to be with you again, believe me, yours very truly,

SAMUEL SIEGEL.

It will readily be seen that this is indeed a very good scheme, and should meet with the approval of all managers. This will certainly save the local managers a vast lot of trouble, to say nothing of the expense.

Now, we should say this right here; that we think it is about time that some other teacher tried their hand at one or two of these concerts. It may not be generally known, but, nevertheless, it is a fact, that with the exception of one concert, all these artists have been brought out here by Chas. F. Graeber—Farland, Abt and Siegel. It may be true that *all of these concerts were not a financial success*, still they were a musical triumph, especially the one given February 28th of this year, with Siegel. On this occasion the entire hall was sold before the night of the concert, and, believe it if you will, a number of people were denied admission owing to to the fact that there was absolutely nowhere to put them.

Some of the local teachers said that we would have had just as many, owing to the fact that this was our Eleventh Annual. Be that as it may, the fact still remains that *we did have a jammed house*. We suggested to one teacher the other day that he try his hand at one concert at least. He said he would if we would guarantee that our whole class would go to it. Now that little question brings to mind what we have been saying ever since we started to give these affairs. With most every one of these concerts we have tried a new scheme to get the teachers interested, but to no avail. The nearest approach to interest we experienced was when we gave them tickets to go. On an occasion or two we were led to believe that they would try to induce their pupils to go if we would make a reduction. Well, we agreed to let them have the best reserved seats in the house at half price, but that did not make very much difference. That these concerts are expensive must be admitted, and there is hardly one teacher in any city that can make it pay unless he has the assistance of a great number of friends. Even one teacher can do a great deal to make a concert a success or a failure, and in a town like 'Frisco, where we have the most narrow-minded and BIGOTED teachers in the world, it is, to say the least, an uphill job.

In the face of all opposition, we have given five concerts with Farland, eight with Abt and one with Siegel.

In addition to those we have given eleven annual concerts, and we may say with pride that our annual concerts are the event of the season and the talk of the town months before they happen. Our readers will admit that it is about time we gave these others a chance. And as we think of it, in a recent letter from Mr. Abt he writes that he, too, is preparing for another trip out West. Here, now, is a good chance for two enterprising teachers. On another page will be found a letter from Mr. Farland, in which he writes of a great number of concerts he is engaged for in the East that will keep him busy for a long while.

Some of our readers may say: Now that you have the secret of giving a successful concert, why don't you go ahead and give a few more?

Well, the fact is if we had a little more time we would. But we have our banjo factory to attend to, and as we publish quite a number of instrumental pieces for banjo, mandolin and guitar, we have so little time that we positively cannot spare the time it takes to arrange for even one concert. And then, too, we are about tired of having to work so much to make a success of an affair of this kind. The opposition of the teachers is too great to think of giving a concert without their aid, and as we cannot get it, perhaps someone else can. If we had the time, as we have had up to the present time, we would not hesitate. Then, too, the mere fact that someone else

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)

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Chas. F. Graeber, Editor and Publisher
634 Post St., San Francisco

The only Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Journal Published on the Pacific Coast.

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ANNOUNCEMENT—If you want to learn to play the Mondolin, Banjo and Guitar go to Prof. Chas. F. Graeber. Prof. Graeber has taught more people here how to play than any other teacher in the city.

Editorial

(FROM THIRD PAGE.)

besides Graeber was giving a concert of this kind would, in our opinion, be quite a novelty and might draw a better crowd than we could.

It is high time that some one else did something for these instruments out here besides Graeber.

We may say right here that we will cheerfully give any information in our power, but don't misconstrue this for aid. We don't want to be mixed up in any affair with any other teacher, good or bad. Our motto has been to keep strictly to ourselves. We have never received aid from any of the teachers here, and while we will give any information, we will not pledge ourselves to anything else. We have tried time and again to have them work together, but could not do so. So we have at last decided to paddle our own canoe. For the last ten or twelve years we have been booming things up for all the teachers in the city and received no thanks, even, let alone their aid in a concert; on the contrary, they would do all in their power to harm one of our concerts as much as possible.

Well, in our next issue, perhaps, we will have to write up a page or two of how several hundred teachers are wanted in San Francisco, Cal., owing to the fact that so many of our local teachers were killed and permanently injured in the mad rush to be the first to secure one of these famous artists.

****

On Friday evening, May 9th, the Lowell High School boys gave a minstrel show in the large social hall in the Girls' High School. The entire proceeds went to defray the expenses of the football team, and it is safe to say that they cleared a very nice sum. The hall was simply jammed full and everything was encored time and again. Graeber's Mandolin Club helped to fill up the program with several selections.

****

On Saturday evening, March 22nd, Graeber's Mandolin Club played at the 12th anniversary entertainment and ball given by Court Mayflower, No. 41, F. of A., in Mission Parlor Hall.

****

Fred Stuber, the well-known Eastern banjoist, is now playing at the Chutes.

****

F. D. Piccirillo. the mandolin teacher, has gone to Los Angeles for a vacation.

****

G. C. Santisteban gave a pleasant little concert in Sherman & Clay Hall on Thursday evening; May 15th.

****

And still we keep on forging ahead. Any one doubting us as to the amount of members we have in our club should pay a visit to our new clubroom on a Monday night. Our old place has at last become entirely too small for our comfort, so we had to remove to a larger hall Now if any one wishes to come and hear us practice we can accommodate several hundred visitors with comfort. We congratulate ourselves for having without any exception the finest hall in the whole United States. This hall is about sixty feet square, well lighted and ventilated, and is without doubt the best hall in the city for music, as it is very resonant, the accoustics being perfect. We consider ourselves, indeed, very fortunate in securing a place so near the studio, being only two doors below. We rehearse every Monday night at 8. Visitors are always welcome.

G. W. Gregory, a well known New York banjoist, committed suicide in New York on May 4th.

****

The American Guild of Banjo, Mandolin and Guitarists is now seeking to obtain a charter through the University of New York or Pennsylvania.

****

On Saturday evening, April 26th, Graeber's Mandolin Club played for the entertainment given by the Danish Ladies' Relief Society in Union Square Hall.

****

A. A. Farland, the famous banjoist, in a recent letter, writes that he is playing more than ever. Following are a few dates he played, with a few more to follow:

I am playing cities on my own responsibility and doing well.

Newark, N. J.; Jersey City, N. J.; Brooklyn, N. Y. (big); Hamstead, N. Y.; Wilkesbarre, Pa.; Williamsport, Marysville, Pa.; Washington, Baltimore, Dover, Dela.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Trenton, N. J.; Bayonne, N. J.; Plainfield, N. J.; Bridgeport, Conn., have been played so far. My plan is a success. Play: Mercersburg, Penn., April 17th; Harrisburg, Penn., April 18th; New Haven, Conn., April 24th; Middletown, Conn., April 25th; Meriden, Conn., April 26th; New Britain, April 28th. Will then lay off to enable my advance agent to get further ahead and will then play Hartford, Conn., May 19th, Springfield. Mass., May 20th; Pittsfield, Mass., May 21st; Webster, Mass., May 22d; Wonsocket, R. I., May 27th; Haverhill, Mass., May 26th; Keene, N. H., May 23d; Barre, Vt., May 24th.

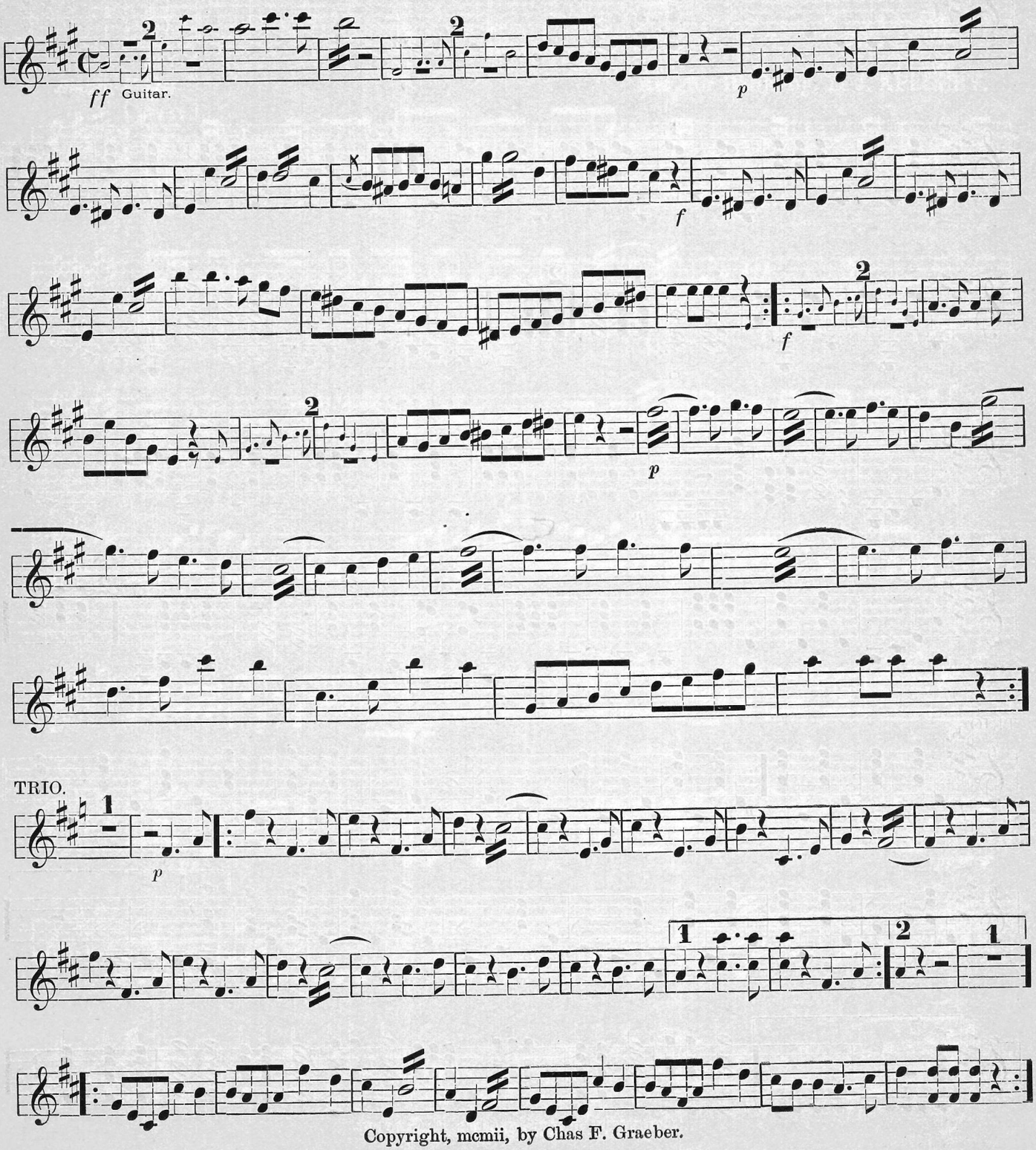
With best regards to all, sincerely yours. FARLAND.

****

The Troubadour, our English contemporary, has put in its appearance and we are indeed pleased to welcome it again. We read it over and over to learn what our English friends are doing. *The Troubadour's* editor must be a man with an unlimited lot of good common sense to write up the articles it contains, as he does. We would like to shake him by the hand; perhaps we may some day, who can tell. At any rate, we are always glad to receive *The Troubadour* and enjoy reading it very much indeed.

Arion Carnival March.

MANDOLIN. By CARL FAUST, Op. 29. Arr. by CHAS. F. GRAEBER.



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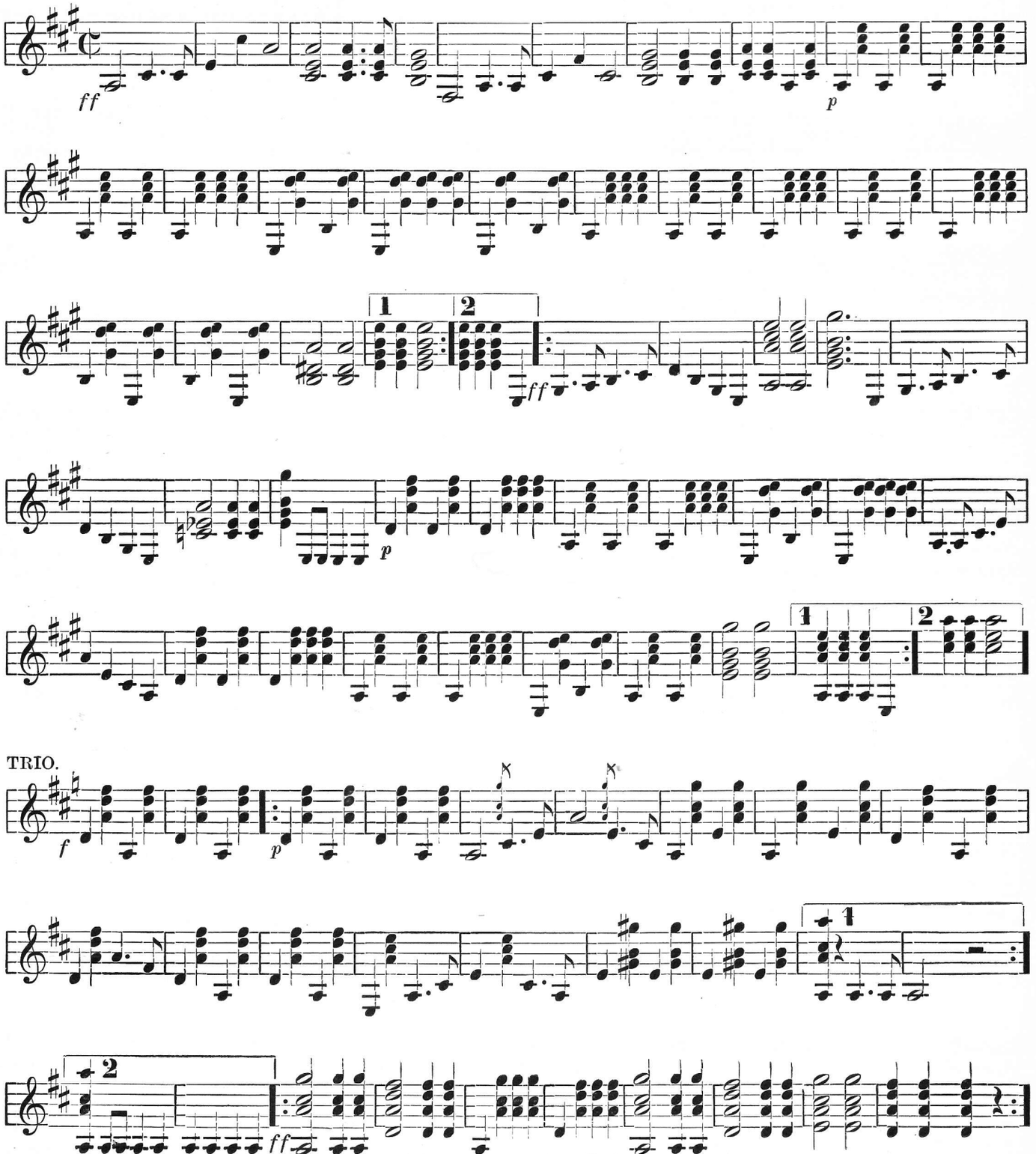
Arion Carnival March.

GUITAR Accomp. By CARL FAUST, Op. 29. Arr. by CHAS. F. GRAEBER.

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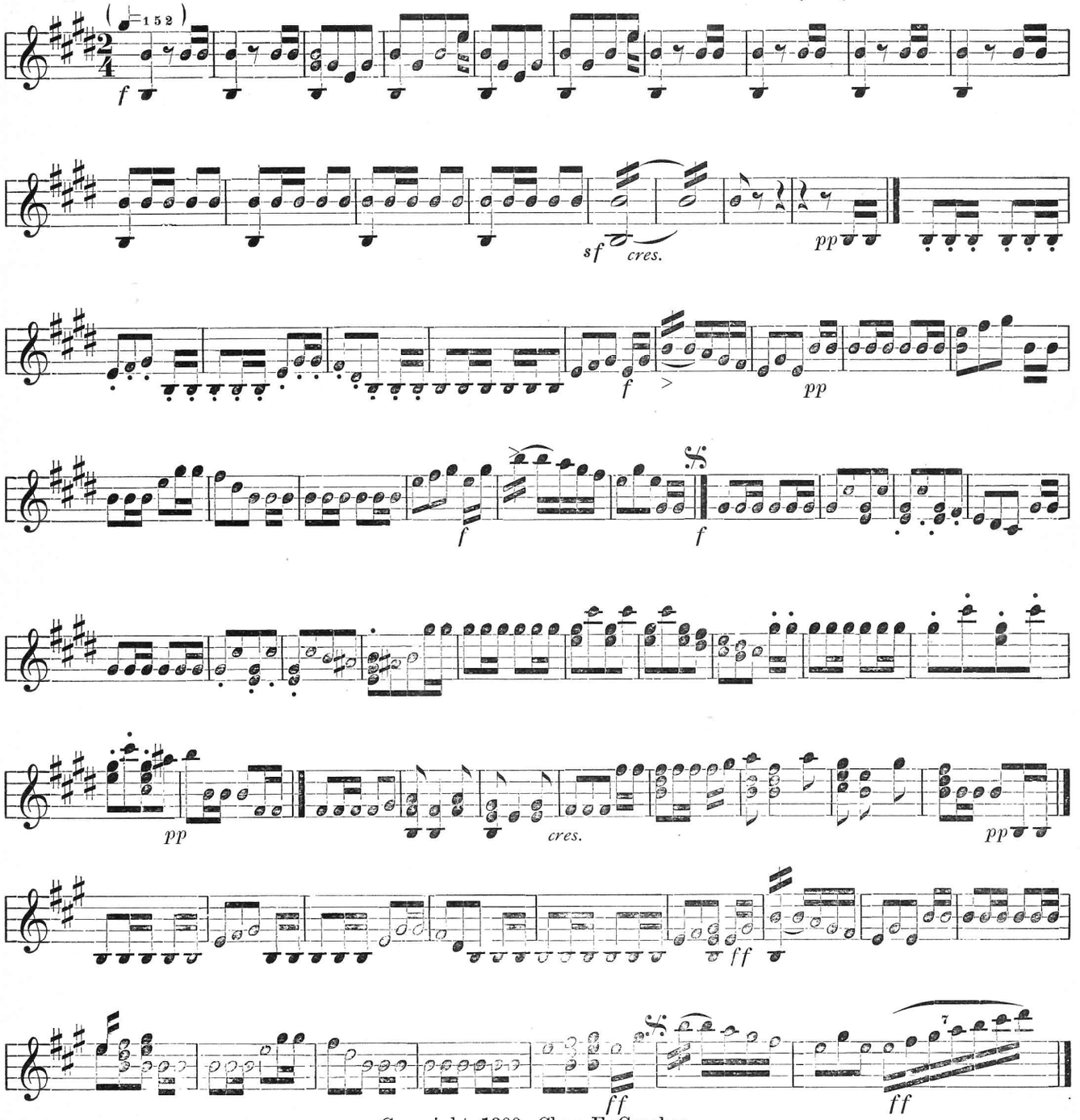
Finale from Overture Wm. Tell.

Allegro Vivace. Arr. for Banjo by. E. J. APPLEBY.

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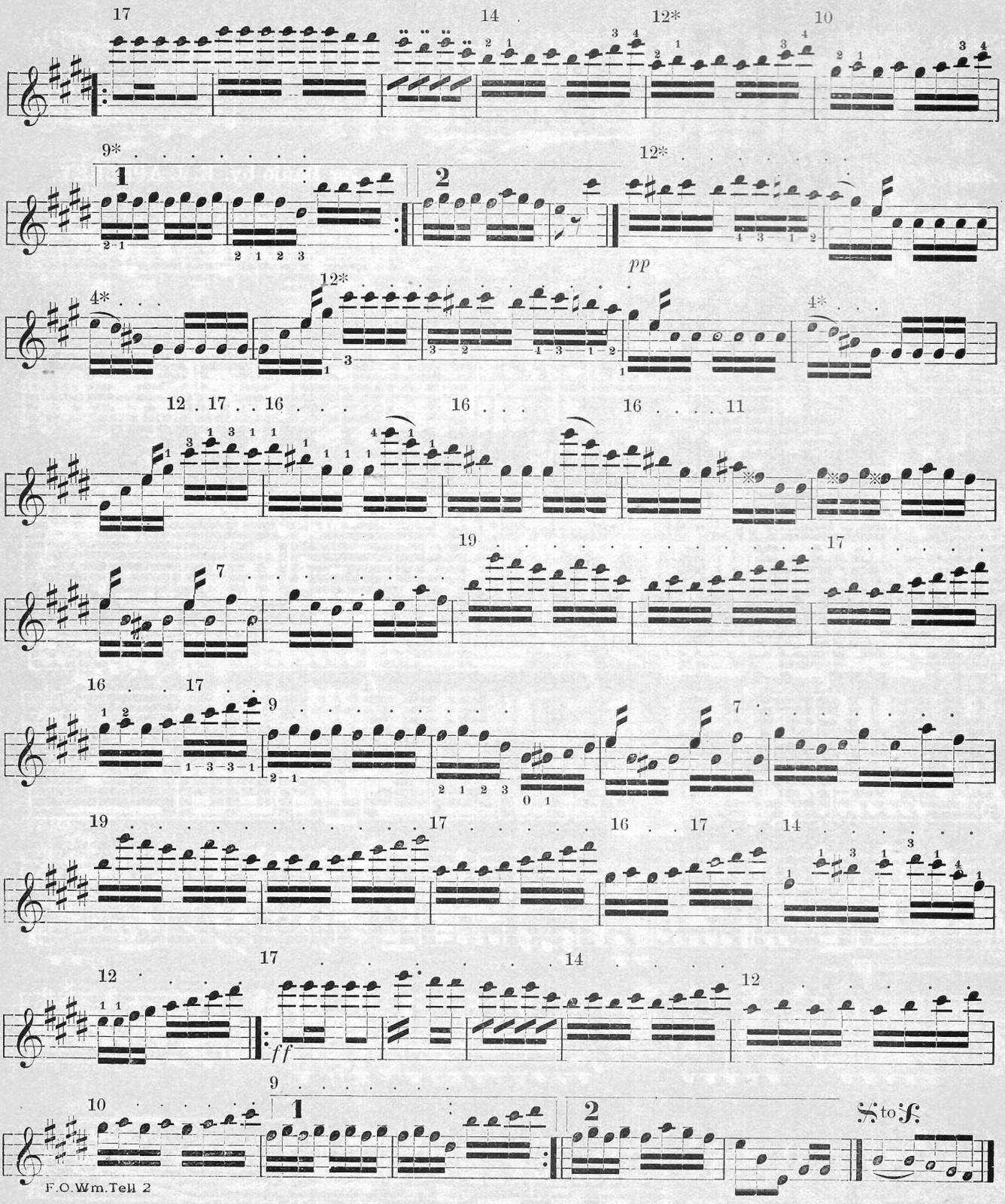

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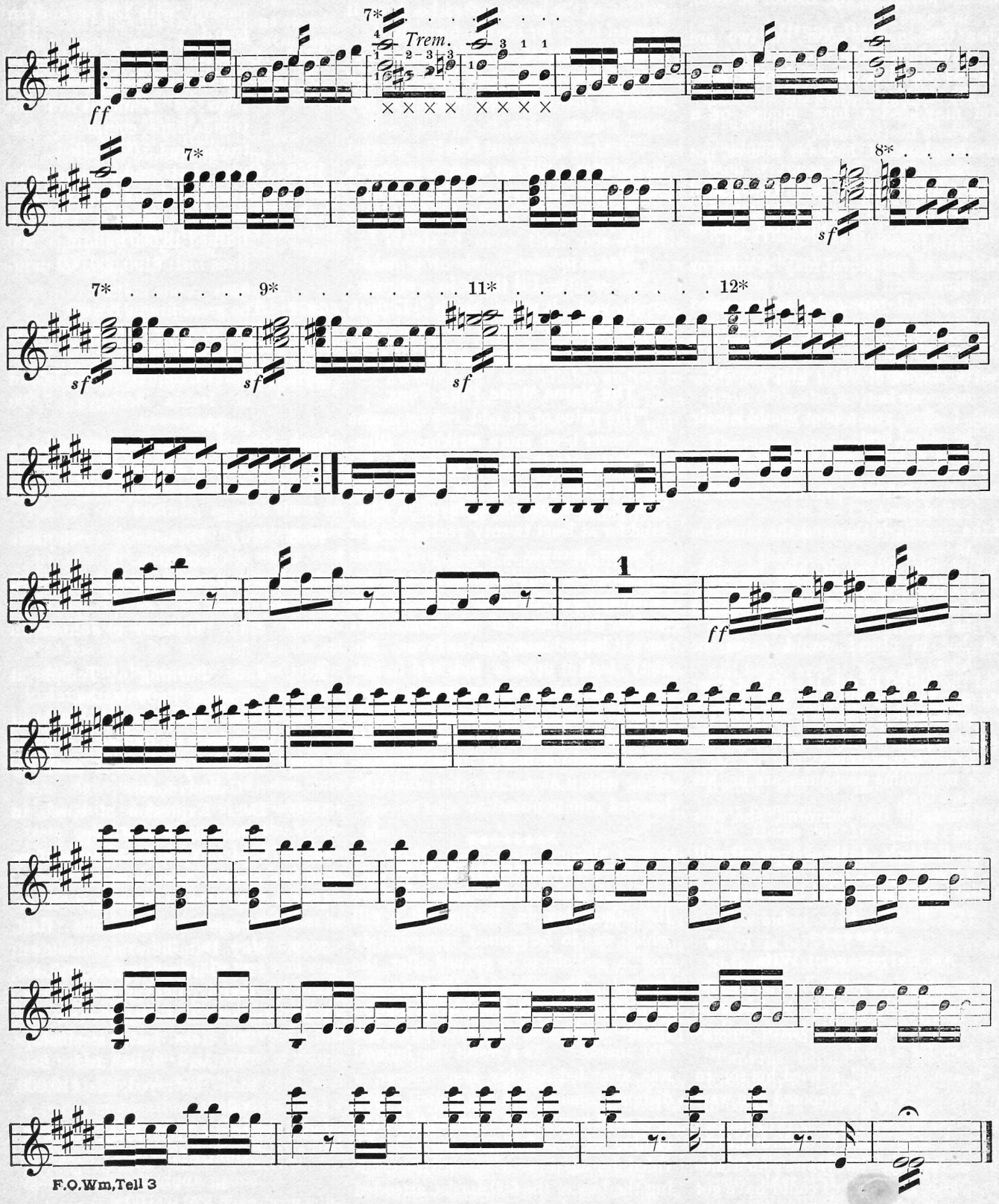
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

We'll begin with a box, and the plural
is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen,
not oxes;
Then one fowl is goose, but two are
called geese.
Yet the plural of mouse should never
be meese;
You may find a lone mouse, or a
whole nest of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not
hice.
If the plural of man is always called
men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be
called pen;
The cow in the plural may be cows or
kine,
But a cow if repeated is never called
kine,
And the plural of vow is vows not
vine;
And if I speak of a foot and you show
me your feet,
And I give you a boot would a pair
be called beet;
If one is a tooth and a whole set are
teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be
called beeth;
If the singular's this and the plural is
these,
Should the plural of kiss be nick-
named keese;
Then one may be that and three would
be those,
Yet hat in plural would never be
hose,
And the plural of cat is cats not cose:
We speak of a brother and also of
brethren,
But though we may say mother we
never say methren;
Then masculine pronouns are he, his
and him,
But imagine the feminine, she, shis
and shim,
So the English, I think, you all will
agree,
Is the most wonderful language you
ever did see.

****

An Extravagant Wife.

"I'm afraid, my boy," said the retired millionaire sadly to his son, "that you will have to leave college and look for a job."

"Leave college!" echoed his son in surprise. "Why, I supposed you were very rich, father."

"So I was—once," replied the old man dejectedly, "but riches sometimes take wings, my boy. I could have got along without meat, but your mother would insist upon having it every day."—Syracuse Herald.

Look Pleasant, Please.

A little girl living on East Second street had her picture taken recently, and a friend of the family, who was calling at the house, asked her how it seemed to sit for the photograph.

"Oh, I didn't mind it," she said. You know, I had that thing on my face you always have when you get your picture taken."

"The thing on your face?" queried the visitor. "What do you mean—a veil?"

"No, it's a—" and she stopped to think.

"Was it powder?" she was asked.

"No–er–it's– I'll think in a minute–er–oh, yes! It was a smile."–Duluth News Tribune.

****

The Name Made Ping-Pong.

"The value of an odd, catchy name has never been more strikingly illustrated than in the game of ping-pong," said an Englishman the other day. "Table tennis has been played in England for at least twenty years, and yet it never became a craze until some bright fellow simplified the rules somewhat and put the game on the market under the name of ping-pong. At once it leaped into popular favor. Society took it up as a fad, and in this country people who have never heard of table tennis are becoming enthusiastic over it under the impression that it is something new. I suppose anything with a name like that could be boosted into popularity.

****

Berlin Eccentric's Odd Will.

A rich and eccentric man who died the other day in Berlin left a will which was to be opened immediately and a codicil to be opened after the funeral. The will said. "Every member of my family who shall abstain from attending my funeral is to receive 300 marks." As a result the funeral was attended by his housekeeper, a distant cousin. On the codicil being opened it was found to enact that the residue of the fortune was to be devided among those who, notwithstanding the loss of the 300 marks, attended his funeral. Hence, the housekeeper gets all, but the heirs threaten to dispute the will.

Disasters.

1841. The "President" steamship sailed from New York for Liverpool and was lost on the passage with 136 persons on board.

1842. Dreadful earthquake among the West India Islands. The town of Point-a-Pitra, in Guadaloupe, completely destroyed and 5,000 killed.

1858. Quito destroyed by an earthquake.

1871. The great fire in Chicago. Burned 18,000 buildings; 200 lives lost; $190,000,000 damage.

1872. The great fire in Boston.

1873. Mail steamer "Atlantic" sunk; loss, 700.

1883. Great earthquake in the Island of Ischia destroys 7,500 people.

1883. Aug. Java and neighboring islands devastated by volcanic eruptions; 100,000 lives lost.

1886. Aug. Disastrous earthquake at Charleston.

1887. Great earthquake in the Reviera.

1889. May. Disaster of Johnstown flood.

1893. Jan. Burning of Temple at Canton, 1,400 deaths.

1893. Jan. Great earthquake at Zante.

1893. Battleship "Victoria sunk by "Camperdown."

1893. Dec. Explosion of bomb in the Chamber of Dep.

1894. Sept. Destructive forest fires in the Northwest.

1894. Feb. Wreck of steamer "Kearsarge" on Roncador Reef.

1889. May Dam-burst at Johnstown; 2,142 lives lost; loss, $10,000,000.

1900 June 30 Hoboken wharves fire; 250 lives lost; steamships "Maine," "Salle" and "Bremen" destroyed; loss, $10,000,000.

1900. Sept. 8 Galveston flooded. Approximate loss, 8,000 persons; approximate damage, over $30,000,000.

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Subscribe for THE REVEILLE.

The Parts of Speech.

Three little words you often see
Are articles "a," "an" and "the,"
A noun's the name of anything,
As house or garden, hoop or swing.
Instead of nouns the pronouns stands,
Her head, your face, his arm, my hand.
Adjectives tell the kind of noun,
As great, small, pretty, white or brown,
A preposition stands before
A noun, as in or through the door.
Verbs tell of something to be done,
To sing or laugh, jump, skip or run.
How things are done the adverbs tell,
As slowly, quickly, ill or well,
Conjunctions join the words together,
As men "or" women, wind "and" weather.
An interjection shows surprise,
As "Oh!" how pretty; "Ah!" how wise:
The whole are called the nine parts of speech;
Which reading, writing and speaking teach.

****

Rio de Janeiro, it is said, is the easiest city in the world in which to get credit, but the worst place to dodge a debt. All business is done there on the semi-annual account system, and one can get anything he wants and have it charged without difficulty, but the end of every six months is settlement day, and if he is not on hand with his cash he can never again get credit and is socially tabooed. For instance, on one occasion an American ordered a pair of English riding boots in the Brazilian capital from a shoemaker, remarking that his number was eight and a half. In due time eight pairs of boots and one odd one were delivered, whereupon the indignant purchaser protested. The shoemaker insisted that the boots had been ordered, and after arguing in vain an hour, the American annonnced that he would accept but one pair, and accordingly sent back the rest and considered the incident closed. "I heard no more about it," he said, until six months later, when I received a bill for eight and a half pairs of riding boots at $15 each, $127.50 in gold, and a polite notification that seven and a half pairs awaited my pleasure at the shop." He protested in vain and had to settle to avoid social ostracism.

****

Even if Minister Wu Ting-fang confesses publicly that he doesn't like ping-pong, but considers it a "childish game," there are others.–Boston Globe.

Rules for Spelling.

Words ending in e drop that letter before the termination able, as in love, lovable, unless ending in ce or ge, when retained, as in change, changeable.

Words of one syllable ending in a consonant, with a single vowel before it, double that consonant in derivatives, as slip, slipping. But if ending in a consonant with a double vowel before it they do not double the consonant in derivatives,as troop, trooper, etc.

Words of more than one syllable ending in consonant preceded by a single vowel and accented on the last syllable double that consonant in derivatives, as remit, remitted, but except chagrin, chagrined.

All words of one syllable ending in l with a single vowel before it have double ll at the close, as tell, mill, pill, etc.

All words of one syllable ending in l with a double vowel before it have only one l at the close, as mail, sail, tail, etc.

The words foretell, distill, instill and fulfill retain the double l of their primitives. Derivatives of dull, skill, will and full retain the ll when the accent falls on these words, as dullness, skillful, willful, fullness. This rule compels the exceptional concurrence of three l's in skillless.

Words of more than one syllable ending in l have only one l at the close, as delightful, faithful, unless accent falls on last syllable, as befall, etc.

Words ending in l double that letter in the termination ly.

Participles ending in ing, from verbs ending in e, lose the final e, as have, having, make, making, but verbs ending in double ee retain both, as see, seeing. The word dye, to color, however, must retain the e before ing, to avoid confusion with dying, formed from die.

All adverbs ending in ly, and nouns ending in ment, retain the e final of the primitives, as brave, bravery, refinement, except words ending in dge; as acknowledge, acknowledgment.

Nouns ending in y, preceded by a vowel, form their plural by adding s, as money, moneys, but if y is preceded by a consonant, it is changed to ies in the plural, as bounty, bounties.

Compound words whose primitives end in y, change the y into i, as beauty, beautiful.

****

A Grand Garden Party.

On Saturday afternoon, June 14th, there will be given a grand garden party on the grounds of Mrs. Albrechts Fruitvale Ave., near 14th St. East Oakland. A very fine program has been arranged and every number will be good. The entire proceeds will be devided between The Alameda Co. Kings Daughters Home for Incurables, and the Presby, Chinese Rescue Home. On the musical and literary program there will be a Chinese Chorus, an Orchestra, Quartette, Scotch Bagpipe, a Trombone solo by Dr. Maud Noble, Selections by Graeber's mamouth mandolin club, also several very good vocal soloists have volunteered to appear. The entire program is not made up as yet so we give only a few of the numbers. Now in addition to all this, there will be Ice Cream served in the rose arbor for 10 cts., Lemonade served in the summer house for 5 cts., Cherries picked fresh from the trees 10 cts. a basket, Carriages and Carts to hire 25 cts., and at six o'clock there will be a supper served for 15 cts. The program will begin at 3 P. M. and we can safely say this will indeed be a rare treat. The cause is worthy and every one will enjoy themselves. The admission is 25 cts. We sincerely hope all our friends will be there. Our readers may remember that a few months ago The Home for Incurables was destroyed by fire, hence this benefit.

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A Very Old Rule

The oldest mathematic book in the world is believed to be the "Papyrus Rhind" in the British museum, professed to have been written by Ahmes, a scribe of King Ra-a-us. about the period between 2000 and 1700 B. C. This "Papyrus Rhind" was translated by Eisenlohr of Leipsic, and it was found to contain a rule for makind a square equal in area to a given circle. It was not put forth as an original discovery, but as the transcript of a treatise 500 years older still, which sends us back to, approximately, 2500 B. C., when Egyptian mathematicians solved, or thought they had solved, the problem of squaring the circle.

ABT, GREAT MANDOLIN PLAYER

High Praise is Given to His Work on the Harp Also.

Valentine Abt, the mandolinist and harp player, of No. 5 East Fourteenth street, recently returned from a concert tour. A Lockport paper said of him:

"To say that the recital in the East Avenue Congregational Church last evening was a success is a mild way of expressing it. It was far more than that, it was a brilliant success. Mr. Abt more than filled expectations, proving himself as an artist of the highest rank on his chosen instruments. His playing of his own compositions was brilliant in the extreme. The Mendelssohn Andante was played with great depth of feeling and artistic grace.

"This beautiful number was so finely rendered that you think a violin was giving forth the liquid notes. His own arrangement of 'Annie Laurie,' played so well, was highly captivating. His impromptu, of which especial mention should be made, is undoubtedly the greatest composition ever written for the mandolin. The audience was worked up to a high pitch when Mr. Abt concluded his part of the program with his own composition, 'Valse Brilliante.'

"Mr. Abt has been the one to bring the mandolin to its present recognized state as a great instrument, and in his line ranks with Bach and Beethoven, who have made possible the beauties of the pianoforte. Mr. Abt this year has been playing the harp. His rendition of the three numbers was highly entertaining. 'The Flatterer,' by Chaminade, was a pleasing composition, and as it was well known by many local musicians was much appreciated."

The Augusta, Ga.. Chronicle, said: "Valentine Abt gave a wonderful recital in Miller Walker Hall last night in aid of the Armory Fund of the Hussars. It was remarkable for several reasons, the principal one of which was that he showed the mandolin to be a musical instrument in the best sense of the adjective. His selections were good, some being classical and all of the high order. The music he made came to his hearers in liquid notes, not with that quasi-staccato effect usual with the mandolin, and even the guitar. The airs flowed from the instrument; they were not picked out note by note. At times the strains came as vibrant as from a fine old violin, while at others they thrilled with the roundness of a piccolo. It was the apotheosis of mandolin music. In the second part Mr. Abt gave several selections on the harp, proving again his artistic ability and musical genius. It is to be hoped that he will visit Augusta again."

The Streets of the World.

The longest paved street in the world is Washington street, Boston, which is 17½ miles long. The shortest street is the Rue Ble, Paris, which is barely 20 feet long. The widest street is Market street, Philadelphia; the narrowest the Via Sol, Havana, which is only 3½ feet wide, and, therefore, conscientiously avoided by corpulent persons. The highest street is Main street, Denver, Colo.; the lowest street, which is below the level of the sea, is Main street, Georgetown, British Guiana. The cleanest street is possibly Regent street, London. The dirtiest street, Tchang-Tai street, Nankin. The street with the whitest houses is the Via Castile, Seville, Spain. The street with the blackest houses is said to be Threadneedle street, London. The richest street in the world is Fifth avenue, New York. The poorest, Kiang alley, Hongkong. The most beautiful street is the Avenue Champs Elysees, Paris, and the ugliest, Broadway, New York, where buildings fifteen stories high jostle with those of two stories.

How English People Take Jokes.

The English people, they say, are slowest people on earth to see a joke. Yesterday I was riding over the Grand Trunk, near Toronto, and the typical Englishman with eye glasses, an opera glass hung around his neck and a bundle of canes and umbrellas under his arm, got on the train.

"There is one of those thick headed Englishmen who can never see a joke," remarked a bright commercial traveler.

"Oh, I think you could make him see the point of a joke," I answered.

"I'll bet anything, said my friend, "that you can't make that man see the point to an American joke."

"All right," I said, "I'll try it."

So, after being introduced to the Englishman, I set out to make him smile. I told him the best jokes I knew. He always listened attentively, but instead of seeing the precise point, he would ask some explanation, while his face wore an expression as blank as a Chinaman when you have paid him $5 too much change.

Finally I told the Englishman the old story of the Indian who wanted a receipt for money paid to a white man. Said I, the Indian insisted the white man should give him a receipt.

"What do you want a receipt for?" asked the white man, "you've paid the money and that's enough."

"But me must have receipt," insisted the Indian.

"Why, what for?" asked the white man.

"Because," said the Indian, "Injun may die."

"Well, suppose you do die, I certainly can't collect this money from you then."

"But," continued the Indian, "me may die and go to heaven. The Lord he ask Injun if he good Injun; Injun say yes. He ask Injun if he pay white man. Injun say yes, yes. Then the Lord he say where is the receipt. What Injun do then? Injun can't go looking all over Hades after you."

After I got through the Americans laughed, as they always will, even at an old joke, but the Englishman looked me straight in the face without a smile. You would think he was viewing the corpse at a funeral. Then he put his front finger solemnly on the palm of his hand, and said argumentatively:

"Now, I don't see why an Indian is not entitled to a receipt as well as a white man. I entirely agree with——"

But a roar of laughter from the Americans drowned his sentence. It so confused the poor Englishman to have his honest opinions laughed at that he turned his back on us and solemnly waded through the dreary columns of London "Punch" all the way into Toronto.

Pride of Family.

Pride of ancestry is a very ancient failing but antiquity has made it none the less foolish than it is in reason.

Why should a man take credit to himself because one or more of his fore-fathers cut a figure in the world? Is it any merit in a man that he was born of his own proper parents? Had he any choice in the selection of his ancesters? Does the glory of his sires make him any different from the scion of a long line of forgotten nobodies? Does a man's lineage give him more brains, a stronger body, better manners or cleaner morals than a son of a peasant may have? Is there any rational argument by which a man can justify his pride in noble lineage?

No man has a right to be proud of his ancestors, unless he is such that his ancestors, if they came back to earth, would be proud of him. Is there a more ridiculous or more pitiful spectacle than that of a feeble-minded, vicous, vacuous, all-around incompetent man boasting of his family and recounting the deeds of forefathers who would not acknowledge him if they were alive? A man who amounts to anything is not afraid to stand on his own feet, and to be judged by his own merits. He will not be content to bask in the reflected glory of his ancestors.

Admitting, even, that it is justifiable, or, rather, excusable to plume one's self on being sprung from some great man, it is still clearly absurd to boast about descent from a line of men who did nothing, and of whom nobody ever heard. There are thousands of men who devoutly perform family devotions under a family tree which contains not one name of any person of consequence. The Joneses of Tennessee and the Smiths of Massachusetts are prolific tribes, and they have a strong sense of their inherited gentility, but their family pride is based, apparently, on the sole ground that they know the names of their forefathers for three or four generations. So far as the records tell, those forefathers were very ordinary men, who did nothing except leave issue of their bodies.

In the West there is less boasting about family than there is in other parts of the country, for in the West the family tree soon runs into the ground where the body of some rough old pioneer nourishes its roots. But in the East and South, where the communities have been long established, people have had time to forget about one another's ancestors, and it is possible to let one's imagination have a little play. Hence the numerous illustrious stocks starting and ending in nonentities.

What are six or ten generations that a man should boast of having them behind him? Every person is the child of innumerable generations. Not a man lives to-day who had not an ancestor on earth when Cheops was building the pyramids, and it is likely that, in the series of two or three hundred generations since that time, gentle blood and base blood have been pretty well comingled in everybody's veins.

In England it is deemed a great thing to be descended of one of the men who came over with William the conqueror, no matter in what servile capacity he came, and in a section of this country it is a subject of boasting to have a Mayflower pilgrim in the family. Why should an Englishman take pride in being a remote descendant of Duke William's barber, or an American strut about with his head high because he is of the seed of the Mayflower's cook?

If any man really thinks it worth his while to have a noble ancestry it is easy to procure one. In every capital of Europe there are agents who can procure an applicant, at reasonable cost, a tree guaranteed by governments, and one can be traced into the family of a Count, a Duke or a King, according to his taste and his ability to pay. There are lines of titled ancestry to be had, either ready made or made to order. In these days of enterprising colleges of heraldry no man need be a plebeian. Any competent genealogist will hitch him for a small fee to a line of ancestors of guaranteed quality, and the proof of kinship will be quite as reliable and authoritative as is the proof connecting almost any proud aristocrat with the medieval founder of his family.

New plans for the proposed Marlborough Theater, to be erected in the Holloway road, have been submitted to the London County Council. The theater will accommodate 2,380 persons.

Chicago Firm Leads the World.

Chicago may now congratulate itself upon the possession of the largest music house in the world. The volume of business transacted by Lyon & Healy last year exceeded the sales of any other American firm, and neither Erard & Co. of France, Chappell & Co. of England, Bechstein of Germany, Ricordi of Italy, nor any other European house approached their figures.

Just Plain Flower Pot.

They were making copies of inventory lists when a doubt arose as to the accuracy of the spelling of the word jardiniere in the original copy.

"Miss Brown," called the typewriter, "please spell 'jardiniere.' "

"Certainly," returned Miss Brown, blithely, "Ja-r-d-a-n-i-e-r-e."

"Oh, I don't think that second syllable is spelled 'd-a-n.' Mr. Wyeth, will you spell jardiniere?"

"J-a-r d-i-n-e-r-e," returned Mr. Wyeth.

The typewriter blushed. Mr. Wyeth was a partner, and it's hard to tell a partner he can't spell.

"I don't think that's quite right," she faltered. "Let's look in the dictionary."

The dictionary was an old edition, and didn't contain the word. Suddenly hope loomed large in the person of the senior partner's son. He was fresh from Harvard, and the entire office appealed to him through Mr. Wyeth's "Say, Ransome, spell jardiniere."

"Search me," replied Ransome. "Put the thing down as a flower pot." Which they did.—New York Evening Sun.

Satisfied Anyhow.

"Maria," said the colored citized, 'I feels lak my time hez come at las'; I is mighty low."

"Ain't you been eatin' de kunnel's watermillions?"

"Oh, yes."

"Well, didn't you know he done pizened de las' one er dem?"

"Did he pizen um?"

"He sho' did."

"Dat settles me. But, Maria——"

"What you want?"

"I wuz all day at um, en I eat nine defo' I quit."—Atlanta Constitution.

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First Things.

The first degree of D. D. was conferred on Increase Mather in 1692.

1839. Envelopes were first used.

1830. The first steel pen was made.

1830. The first iron steamship was built.

1829. The first lucifer match was made.

1828. First passenger railroad in the United States.

1626-7. The first horse railroad was built.

1826. Kerosene was first used for lighting purposes.

1819. First steamship crossed the Atlantic.

1807. Fulton's first steamboat voyage

1753. The first steam engine on this continent was brought from England.

1690. First newspaper in America at Boston.

1652. The first newspaper advertisement appeared.

1588. The first newspaper was published in England.

1569. Coaches were first used in England.

1545. Modern needles first came into use.

1559. The first knives were used in England, and the first wheeled carriage in France.

1476. Watches were first constructed. Thomas Lote was the first man in this country who ever built a fire engine that was used.

The first American daguerreotype was taken of Moses Hobby, of Stamford, Conn., by Prof. Henry, of the New York University.

1773. The first fort captured from the British in Revolutionary times was that of Newport, R. I.; when forty cannons were seized and carried away, on Dec. 6.

1621. The first duel in New England was fought on June 18, with sword and dagger, between Edward Doty and Edward Leicester, two servants, both of whom were wounded.

1799. The first piece of gold discovered in the United States was found in Cabarras County, N .C.

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The Gregorian Year.

The Gregorian Year was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII. with the view of keeping the Equinox to the same day of the month. It consists of 365 days, but every year exactly divisible by 4 and the centurial years, which are exactly divisible by 400, contains 366 days; and if in addition to this arbitrary arrangement the centurial years exactly divisible by 4,000 contain 366 days, the error in the Gregorian system will amount to only one day in about 20 centuries. If, however, 31 leap years were intercalculated in 128 years, instead of 32, as at present, the calendar would be practically exact and the error would not amount to more than a day in 100,000 years. The length of the mean Gregorian Year may therefore be set down at 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes, 12 seconds. The Gregorian calendar was introduced into England and her colonies in 1752, at which time the Equinox had retrograded 11 days since the Council of Nice in A. D. 325, when the festival of Easter was established and the Equinox occurred on March 21; hence September 3, 1752, was called September 14, and at the same time the commencement of the legal year was changed from March 25 to January 1, so that the year 1751 lost the months of January and February and the first 24 days of March. The difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars is now 12 days. Russia and the Greek Church still employ the Julian Calendar for civil and ecclesiastical purposes.

The Ancient Honr.

The early Egyptians divided the day and night each into twelve hours, a custom adopted by the Jews or the Greeks probably from the Babylonians. The day is said to have first been divided into hours from B. C. 293, when a sun-dial was erected in the temple of Quirinus, at Rome. Previous to the invention of water-clocks, B. C. 158, the time was called at Rome by public criers. In early England one expedient of measuring time was by wax candles, three inches burning an hour. The first perfect mechanical clock was not made until about A. D. 1250. Day began at sunrise among most of the Nothern nations, at sunset among the Athenians and Jews; at midnight among the Romans, as with us.

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Horace Greeley's likes and dislikes were often unaccountable, and his lending young Cornelius Vanderbilt various sums of money, reaching in the aggregate large amounts, in spite of the Commodore's strenuous opposition, was as strange in a different way as his signing the bail bond of the former President of the Southern Confederacy. It is related, in this connection, that Commodore Vanderbilt once sent a message to the editor asking the favor of a call. Mr. Greeley went. The Commodore said in effect. "Mr. Greeley, you know very well that I don't want you to give 'Corneel' money; you must stop it, and I give you fair warning that I will never repay a cent of what you have lent him." "Who the blazes asked you to?" was Mr. Greeley's reply, as he shambled out of the room.

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Describing a Wedding Present.

Here is the letter sent by a Topeka man with a present to a bride in Chicago: "My Dear Girl—You will find in the box a thingamajig which has something to do with eating grub off a table. I don't know what it is. It looks like a cross between a harpoon and a hayfork. It may be for spearing pickles, or it may be for stacking chopped cabbage. I am so old-fashioned that I don't know; you will be so happy you won't care."—Kansas City Journal.

Puerto Ricans Honor Mc Kinley.

Governor William H. Hunt of Porto Rico, in a letter received by Ryerson Ritchie, National Secretary, says that $1,497.42 has been raised in the island for the McKinley memorial in amounts of 10 cents or under. Each contributor will be given a souvenir certificate, and in this manner pictures of McKinley, the White House and the McKinley home at Canton will adorn thousands of homes in Porto Rico.

Doubtful Prerogatives.

Clark Howell of the Atlanta Constitution was driving with a New York friend along a roadway in Georgia. The northerner noticed that many of the negroes along the way took off their hats as the carriage passed.

"They seem to know you pretty generally down here," he said to his host.

"Oh, no. They don't," replied the latter.

"Then why do they bow?"

"That," said Mr. Howell, "is one of the privileges we allow the darkies down here."—New York Times.

Blind Tom, who has been dead several times and positively retired from public gaze as many more, has turned up again. As one of the wonders of the modern world his movements are worth chronicling. The program of a concert which he gave recently in Mobile, Ala., contained five of his own compositions, besides pieces by Beethoven, Paderewski, Verdi, etc.

Speed of a Train.

To find the rate of speed when traveling in a railway car: Every time a car passes over a rail joint there is a distinct click. Count the number of these clicks in twenty seconds This gives the number of miles the train is going per hour. This is simple matter of arithmetic, as the length of the rail is uniform.

A story is told of a former Duke of Hamilton, who invited one of his neighbors, a plain-spoken laird, to a dinner at the close of a business transaction. The laird was not used to the luxuries of life, and watched with an impatient eye the flittings about of a liveried servant, who seemed to be everywhere at once, anticipating the laird's wants in a way that struck the rustic as positively uncanny. At last the guest turned deliberately about in his chair and addressed the servant in a tone of considerable irritation. "What are ye dance, dance, dancing about the room for, man?" he said. "Can ye no draw in your chair and sit doon?" I'm sure there's enough on the table for three."

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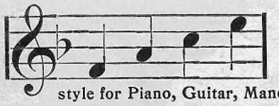

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